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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ZAND, KAMBIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,737

Applicant(s)

WATANABE, JUNYA

Examiner

Kambiz Zand

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 14, 15 and 18-20 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 16 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 17 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

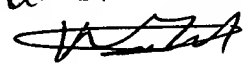
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Kambiz Zand


Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.



DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in the prior office action.
2. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
3. Claims 2-4, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17 and 19 have been amended.
4. Claims 1-20 are pending.
5. Examiner withdraws objection to the claims 2, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 17 due to correction by the applicant.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 06/30/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As per Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, examiner refers Applicant to the following remarks:

- In response to applicant's arguments, the recitation "**for** inserting an electronic watermark pattern or patterns for identifying a furniture of a picture or image, termed "picture" collectively, into data of said picture" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim

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does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

- Examiner considers the phrase “inserting previously generated key information pattern or patterns into a picture or pictures into which said electronic watermark pattern or patterns have been inserted” and “transmitting the resulting picture or pictures” after the phrase “for” in lines 4-6 of the claim as only descriptive phrases with respect to the limitation “an electronic watermark pattern inserter” and not actually active limitations where the act of insertion of previously generated key information or transmission of the resulting picture is being processed.

Therefore Applicant’s arguments with respect to claim 1 are not persuasive.

As per Applicant’s arguments with respect to claim 5, 12 and 16, please see col.12, lines 46-64 where composite signal do include watermark pattern and key information (see fig.1, item 102 where the watermark signal corresponds to Applicant’s previously generated key information along with watermark pattern where the previously corresponds to item 109 where the watermark signal previously processed; and the watermark signal is added to host signal in item 110 A and that is the insertion; Examiner refers applicant to the following definitions by Chen: col.11, lines 18-19 describe “watermark signal” as a signal to be embedded in a host

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signal and lines 38-40 disclose the signal can be analog or digital; col.10, line 9-11 also disclose the host signal can be analog or digital; line 53-67 and col.11, lines 1-2 disclose the meaning of the signal where signal can be a text or image or moving image such as video; therefore with that definitions Examiner refers Applicant to fig.2 where the process of insertion of watermarking is detailed where item 102 and 101 are feed to an item 260A as an input/output device and where the embedded information or key information are also combined with them through item 201 and then the output called composite signal is feed to transmitter 120; col.9, lines 29-31 disclose the composite signal as a signal (image or picture) that includes the host signal (image or picture))

As per Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 8, Examiner refers applicants to the meaning of the "to convert (as information) from one system of communication into another" by Webster's dictionary. How the act of conversion is being done. Examiner challenges Applicants to show if any conversion does not include an insertion of an element; and in this case since pictures consist of pixels and pixels is nothing but binary 0's or 1's when is considered as a mathematical format in digital process. Webster dictionary also define the word "convert" as "change from form or function to another, to alter the physical or chemical nature of a properties", now how can one make such a conversion without involvement of an element?

With respect to Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 10, claim 10 depends from claim 8 and not allowed claim 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. **Claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al (6,233,347 B1).

- Examiner refers applicant to abstract and figures where Chen disclose a system, method and product and means for embedding and extraction.

As per claim 1 Chen et al (6,233,347 B1) teach an electronic watermark inserter for inserting an electronic watermark pattern or patterns for identifying a furnisher of a picture or image, termed "picture" collectively, into data of said picture, said inserter comprising: an electronic watermark pattern inserter (**see fig.1 where item 110A embedder system that corresponds to the Applicant's watermark pattern inserter; fig.2A details the embedder system where item 201 information embedder does the inserting job in harmony with other part of the system; see col.11, lines 66 and 67 disclose information embedder that corresponds to Applicant's watermark inserter**) for inserting previously generated key information pattern or patterns into a picture or pictures (**see col. 17, lines 19-25 where it disclose the watermark signal 101 that corresponds to Applicant's watermark pattern could be preprocessed**

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such as encoding or encryption or other ways that modify the signal, Examiner considers the added information that result in modification of watermark signal corresponding to Applicant's previously inserted generated key information) into which said electronic watermark pattern or patterns have been inserted (see fig.1, item 102 where the watermark signal corresponds to Applicant's previously generated key information along with watermark pattern where the previously corresponds to item 109 where the watermark signal previously processed; and the watermark signal is added to host signal in item 110 A and that is the insertion; Examiner refers applicant to the following definitions by Chen: col.11, lines 18-19 describe "watermark signal" as a signal to be embedded in a host signal and lines 38-40 disclose the signal can be analog or digital; col.10, line 9-11 also disclose the host signal can be analog or digital; line 53-67 and col.11, lines 1-2 disclose the meaning of the signal where signal can be a text or image or moving image such as video; therefore with that definitions Examiner refers Applicant to fig.2 where the process of insertion of watermarking is detailed where item 102 and 101 are feed to an item 260A as an input/output put device and where the embedded information or key information are also combined with them through item 201 and then the output called composite signal is feed to transmitter 120; col.9, lines 29-31 disclose the composite signal as a signal (image or picture) that includes the host signal (image or picture) and a watermark signal (inserted watermark pattern and previous info.) embedded in the host signal) and for transmitting the resulting picture or pictures (see fig.2A where item 120 transmitter transmit the composite

signal (that corresponds to transmission of the picture having watermarked pattern along with key information).

As per claim 5 Chen et al (6,233,347 B1) teach an electronic watermark detector (see fig.2A, item 200 where it disclose information extractor that corresponds to Applicant's detector) for detecting an electronic watermark pattern or patterns (see fig.2B the process and means of detection from receiving the composite signal to reconstruction of watermark signal after detection; Examiner refers applicant to the following definitions by Chen: col.11, lines 18-19 describe "watermark signal" as a signal to be embedded in a host signal and lines 38-40 disclose the signal can be analog or digital; col.10, line 9-11 also disclose the host signal can be analog or digital; line 53-67 and col.11, lines 1-2 disclose the meaning of the signal where signal can be a text or image or moving image such as video) for specifying a furnisher for a picture or image, termed "picture" collectively, inserted into data of said picture, comprising: means for detecting a key information pattern or patterns inserted into said data of the picture along with an electronic watermark pattern or patterns (see col.12, lines 46-63 where extractor detects the composite signal that includes watermark pattern and key information and synchronize the signal for extracting the information and reconstruction of the signals); means for generating parameters required for detecting the electronic watermark pattern or patterns from the key information as detected (see col.12, lines 50-63 where the extractor generates parameters such as quantizer specifier that was used for

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watermarking and determining the nearest quantization values to the original that corresponds to Applicant's parameter); and means for detecting said electronic watermark pattern or patterns from said picture based on the parameters generated in said parameter generating means (see col.12, lines 59-63 where extractor is a means to determine the parameter closest to host signal and then reconstruct the watermark signal that corresponds to watermark pattern).

Please also see other embodiment detailed by Chen with respect to rule of extractor throughout of the reference.

As per claim 8 teach a method for inserting an electronic watermark pattern or patterns for identifying a furnisher of a picture or image, termed "picture" collectively, into data of said picture, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing a key information pattern or patterns **(see Col.17, lines 19-25 where other information that modify the watermark signal and added in pre-process level as key information; col.24, lines 45-49 disclose added quantization value that also corresponds to key information pattern)**, (b) inserting the previously provided key information pattern or patterns into a picture or pictures **(see col. 17, lines 19-25 where it disclose the watermark signal 101 that corresponds to Applicant's watermark pattern could be preprocessed such as encoding or encryption or other ways that modify the signal, Examiner considers the added information that result in modification of watermark signal corresponding to Applicant's previously inserted generated key information)**, into

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which an electronic watermark pattern or patterns have been inserted (see fig.1, item 102 where the watermark signal corresponds to Applicant's previously generated key information along with watermark pattern where the previously corresponds to item 109 where the watermark signal previously processed; and the watermark signal is added to host signal in item 110 A and that is the insertion; Examiner refers applicant to the following definitions by Chen: col.11, lines 18-19 describe "watermark signal" as a signal to be embedded in a host signal and lines 38-40 disclose the signal can be analog or digital; col.10, line 9-11 also disclose the host signal can be analog or digital; line 53-67 and col.11, lines 1-2 disclose the meaning of the signal where signal can be a text or image or moving image such as video; therefore with that definitions Examiner refers Applicant to fig.2 where the process of insertion of watermarking is detailed where item 102 and 101 are feed to an item 260A as an input/output device and where the embedded information or key information are also combined with them through item 201 and then the output called composite signal is feed to transmitter 120; col.9, lines 29-31 disclose the composite signal as a signal (image or picture) that includes the host signal (image or picture) and a watermark signal (inserted watermark pattern and previous info.) embedded in the host signal), and (c) transmitting the resulting picture or pictures (see fig.2A where item 120 transmitter transmit the composite signal (that corresponds to transmission of the picture having watermarked pattern along with key information)).

As per claim 12 Chen et al (6,233,347 B1) teach a method for detecting an electronic watermark pattern for specifying a furnisher for a picture or image, termed "picture" collectively, inserted into data of said picture, comprising the steps of: (a) detecting key information pattern or patterns inserted into said data of the picture or pictures along with said electronic watermark pattern or patterns (**see col.12, lines 46-63 where extractor detects the composite signal that includes watermark pattern and key information and synchronize the signal for extracting the information and reconstruction of the signals**); (b) generating parameters required for detecting the electronic watermark pattern or patterns from the key information pattern or patterns as detected (**see col.12, lines 50-63 where the extractor generates parameters such as quantizer specifier that was used for watermarking and determining the nearest quantization values to the original that corresponds to Applicant's parameter**); and (c) detecting said electronic watermark pattern or patterns from said picture or pictures based on the parameters generated (**see col.12, lines 59-63 where extractor determine the parameter closest to host signal and then reconstruct the watermark signal that corresponds to watermark pattern**).

As per claim 16 Chen et al (6,233,347 B1) teach an electronic watermark detector (**see fig.2A, item 200 where it disclose information extractor that corresponds to Applicant's detector**) for detecting an electronic watermark pattern (**see fig.2B the process and means of detection from receiving the composite signal to reconstruction of watermark signal after detection**; Examiner refers applicant to

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the following definitions by Chen: col.11, lines 18-19 describe “watermark signal” as a signal to be embedded in a host signal and lines 38-40 disclose the signal can be analog or digital; col.10, line 9-11 also disclose the host signal can be analog or digital; line 53-67 and col.11, lines 1-2 disclose the meaning of the signal where signal can be a text or image or moving image such as video) for specifying a furnisher for a picture inserted into data of said picture, comprising: (a) a key information pattern detecting unit detecting a key information pattern inserted into said data of the picture along with an electronic watermark pattern (see col.12, lines 46-63 where extractor detects the composite signal that includes watermark pattern and key information and synchronize the signal for extracting the information and reconstruction of the signals); (b) a parameter generator generating parameters required for detecting the electronic watermark pattern from the key information as detected (see col.12, lines 50-63 where the extractor generates parameters such as quantizer specifier that was used for watermarking and determining the nearest quantization values to the original that corresponds to Applicant’s parameter); (c) a watermark pattern detector detecting said electronic watermark pattern from said picture based on the parameters generated in said parameter generator generated (see col.12, lines 59-63 where extractor determine the parameter closest to host signal and then reconstruct the watermark signal that corresponds to watermark pattern).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 8. Claims 3 and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al (6,233,347 B1) in view of Muratani et al (6,757,405 B1).

As per claims 3 and 10 Chen et al (6,233,347 B1) teach all limitation of the claims of the electronic watermark inserter system and method **as defined in claims 1, 8 and 7 respectively** but do not explicitly disclose picture analysis means for analyzing an input picture for determining the insertion strength of said electronic watermark pattern into each pixel of said picture; said electronic watermark pattern or patterns and said key information patterns being inserted in accordance with said insertion strength information. However Muratani et al (6,757,405 B1) disclose analysis means for analyzing an input picture for determining the insertion strength of said electronic watermark pattern into each pixel of said picture; said electronic watermark pattern or patterns and said key information patterns being inserted in accordance with said insertion strength information **(see fig.9A, item 112 and step S8 of fig.9B where it disclose judgment means and method that corresponds to Applicant's analysis means and method; col.19, lines 9-56 where it disclose embedding intensity are obtained based on the amplitude of the beat and based on that intensity or strength the information watermark is inserted; col.6, lines 58-67 and col.7, lines 1-30 disclose the above calculated insertion in a broader language with respect to insertion of embedded information within a pixel based on the frequency**

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component value; col.9, lines 13-37 disclose the judgment analysis of the above definition in a broader terms; Examiner has considered “embedded intensity” corresponding to “insertion strength”, it’s calculated value to “insertion strength value”; “Judgment unit” to “analysis means”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Muratani et al’s insertion strength watermarking analysis system into Chen’s information embedding system with respect to images in order to multiply the pixel value data of an image and subject it to orthogonal transformation in order to realize a significant watermark embedding and highly accurate watermark detection thereby providing higher-speed processing.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 7, 14-15 and 18-20 are allowed.

10. Dependent claims 15 and 19 are allowable as being dependent upon Independent claims **14 and 18** and having additional allowable features therein.

11. Claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


12. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Zand whose telephone number is (571) 272-3811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3799. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

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<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private
PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197
(toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kambiz Zand', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kambiz Zand

07/28/2005

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